

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE 6474

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 3714

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR, PK, XF

SUBJ: HOVEYDA PRAISES BHUTTO'S ABOLITION OF

SARDARI SYSTEM

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. PRIMIN HOVEYDA'S LETTER TO
BHUTTO CONGRATULATING HIM ON DECISION TO ABOLISH FEUDAL
SARDARI SYSTEM IN PAKISTAN APPEARED ON FRONT PAGES OF
ALL PERSIAN AND FOREIGN-LANGUAGE PAPERS APRIL 13.

TEXT FOLLOWS:

QTE DEAR FRIEND AND PRIME MINISTER: IT WAS WITH GREAT
ADMIRATION AND PLEASURE THAT I LEARNED OF YOUR
EXCELLENCEY'S DECISION TO ABOLISH THE FEUDAL "SARDAR"
SYSTEM, OPENING NEW VISTAS OF DEMOCRACY, HOPE AND
CONFIDENCE FOR THE BORTHERLY PEOPLE OF PSKISTAN.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS MONTOUS MOVE WILL USHER IN
AN ENTIRELY NEW ERA OF PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY FOR THE
RURAL PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN IN A CONTEXT OF FREEDOM
AND HUMAN DIGNITY. YOUR EXCELLENCEY'S COURAGEOUS
ACT, A VIVID SIGH ON WISDOM AND STATESMANSHIP,
WILL NOT ONLY STRENGTHEN NATIONAL UNITY IN PAKISTAN
BUT WILL ALSO ENABLE MILLIONS OF PUR PAKISTANI
BRETHREN TO ACHIEVE FULL PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL
LIFE FOR THE FIRST TIME. THE ABOLITION OF THE
VESTIGES OF THE INHUMAN FEUDAL SYSTEM REPRESENTS
A GIANT STRIDE TOWARDS THE FULL ACHIEVEMENT OF THE
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NOBLE GOALS YOUR EXCELLENCEY HAS SET FOR THE BORTHERLY

PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN. IT IS, AT THE SAME TIME, A GREAT VICTORY FOR ALL THE FORCES OF PROGRESS AND CONSTRUCTIVE DYNAMISM IN OUR REGION. IN CONVEYING TO YOU MY MOST SINCERE FELICITATIONS, I WISH TO REASSERT THE UNSHAKABLE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP THAT BIND OUR TWO PEOPLES TOGETHER IN THEIR QUEST FOR PEACE AND PROGRESS.

AMIR ABBAS HOVEYDA, PRIME MINISTER OF IRAN UNQTE END UNCLASSIFIED

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. WE KNOW SHAH HAS PRIVATELY URGED BHUTTO TO TAKE STEPS TO REFORM SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEM IN PROVINCES AS MEANS OF REDUCING UNREST, PARTICULARLY IN NEIGHBORING BALUCHISTAN, BUT ARE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED IRANIAN WOULD PUBLICLY ENDORSE AN INTERNAL PAK DEVELOPMENT IN THIS WAY. SHAH IS IMMENSELY PROUD OF HAVING BORKEN FEUDAL POWER OF IRANIAN LANDORDS THROUGH LAND REFORM 13 YEARS AGO AND IS PLEASED WITH INCREASED INTERNAL SECURITY AND NATIONAL AUTHORITY WHICH HAVE RESULTED. (HE HAS TOLD SHAIKHS ACROSS PERSIAN GULF THEY SHOULD DO LIKEWISE IN THEIR OWN AND REGION'S INTEREST.) IRANIANS PROBABLY HOPE THAT PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT OF BHUTTO'S MOVE WILL BURNISH THEIR OWN IMAGE AS PIONEERS OF SOCIAL REFORM IN MIDEAST AND AS PROGRESSIVE MODEL TO BE EMULATED--WE EXPECT EDITORIALS IN NEXT FEW DAYS TO MAKE THIS POINT.

HELMS

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